

Bel Canto Bio
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The United States Army Field Band

The Musical Ambassadors of the Army
Washington, DC

BEL CANTO

Bel Canto, the operatic educational outreach team of the Soldiers' Chorus, is an official ensemble of The United States Army Field Band of Washington, DC. Since its inception in 1997, Bel Canto has performed recitals and workshops at high schools throughout the United States. Through their interactive clinics and programming of operatic solos, ensembles, and one-acts, the members of Bel Canto present vocal performance techniques and expose students to the genre of opera.

Staff Sergeant Judith Norton, mezzo-soprano, holds a Bachelor of Music in Vocal Performance from Oklahoma Baptist University and a Master of Music in Vocal Performance from Indiana University. In 1996, SSG Norton represented the Altus Rotary Club as an Academic Year Ambassadorial Scholar in Sienna, Italy. As a featured soloist with the Soldiers' Chorus, she has performed with the London Symphony, Ravinia Festival, Cincinnati Pops, and the Naples Symphony Orchestras. Other performance highlights and awards include soloist in Beethoven's Ninth Symphony with the Maryland Symphony Orchestra; semifinalist for the Juilliard Opera Center; semifinalist at the Washington International Vocal Competition; second prize, Maryland Opera Society's Vocal Competition 2000; and ensemble artist at Opera Theater of St. Louis in 1999.

Staff Sergeant Danan Healy, mezzo-soprano, is from State College, Pennsylvania. She holds a Bachelor of Music from Southern Methodist University and a Master of Music and Performer's Certificate from The Eastman School of Music in Rochester, New York. Her opera roles include Vera Boronel in Menotti's *The Consul*, Cherubino in Mozart's *Le Nozze di Figaro*, and Arsamenes in Handel's *Xerxes*. SSG Healy apprenticed with the Brevard Opera Theater in 1996 where she performed oratorio and pops orchestra solos. While at Eastman, she twice won second prize at the Civic Morning Musicals Competition and was a finalist in the Jessie Kneisel German Lieder Competition and the Kurt Weill Competition.

Sergeant First Class Robert McIver, Jr., tenor, received his Bachelor of Music in Vocal Performance from the University of North Carolina at Greensboro. He appeared with the Des Moines Metro Opera and the Brevard Music Center as an apprentice artist. His operatic credits include the title role in Britten's *Albert Herring*, Don Basilio in Mozart's *Le Nozze di Figaro*, Frederick in Gilbert and Sullivan's *The Pirates of Penzance*, and Billy in Weill's *The Mahogany Songspiel*. SFC McIver was the winner of the 1997 Charlotte Opera Guild Young Artist Competition, and was a finalist in the 2000 Annapolis Opera Competition.

Sergeant First Class Allen Bishop, bass, holds a Bachelor of Music in Music and Drama from Ithaca College. He attended the Chautauqua Summer Institute on a National Federation of Music Clubs scholarship. A 1992 National Association of Teachers of Singing Eastern Regional winner, he is also the 1993 Syracuse Opera Clubs Award recipient. His operatic credits include the roles of Grandpa Moss in Copland's *The Tender Land*, Falstaff in Nicolai's *The Merry Wives of Windsor*, and the title role in Gilbert and Sullivan's *The Mikado*.

Staff Sergeant Samuel Chung, bass, received a Bachelor of Music with honors from Shenandoah University. Prior to receiving his degree, he studied at the Music and Art High School in Seoul, Korea and the University of Southern California. Recent concert performances include Handel's *Messiah* with the Front Royal Oratorio Society, Mozart's *Requiem* with the Winchester First Presbyterian Church, and Beethoven's *Choral Fantasia in C Major* and Bernstein's *Chichester Psalms* with the Fairfax Choral Society and the Fairfax Symphony Orchestra. His opera roles include User in Verdi's *Rigoletto* with the Washington Opera Company, Starveling in Britten's *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, the Count in Mozart's *Le nozze di Figaro*, Papageno in Mozart's *Die Zauberflöte*, Guglielmo in Mozart's *Così fan tutte*, and the title role in Puccini's *Gianni Schicchi*.

Sergeant First Class Sammy Marshall, piano, hails from Churchville, Virginia. He received his Bachelor of Music Education from James Madison University, and Master of Music in Performance/Vocal Accompanying from the Manhattan School of Music. He has attended the American Institute of Musical Studies in Graz, Austria, and the Music Academy of the West in Santa Barbara, California. SSG Marshall's instructors include Martin Katz, Graham Johnson, Donald Nold, and Victoria Berneking.